

SWEDEN  
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1. THE SWEDISH MEDIA HAVE, WITH FAIRLY MINOR HEADLINES, REPORTED ABOUT A NEW "GUN PALM" CASE. A HEAVY SMOKER'S DEATH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED BY THE SUPREME INSURANCE COURT AS WORK INJURY. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN DESPITE CLAIMS THAT THE SMOKER HAD ALSO BEEN EXPOSED TO GASES AND ASBESTOS AT THE WORKPLACE. - THE PM LEGAL COUNCEL IS LOOKING INTO THIS CASE.

THE INTERESTING TWIST IS NOT THE DECISION ITSELF, BUT ANOTHER NEWS ITEM, TELLING THAT THE SWEDISH WORKPLACE INSURANCE SYSTEM IS RAPIDLY RUNNING INTO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. - THIS ASPECT IS NOW BEING LOOKED INTO IN CONTEXT OF THE ACVA/IAQ PROGRAMME, PLANNED TO START THIS SUMMER IN THE NORDIC AREA. THE ULTIMATE IAQ TARGET WOULD BE TO GET FACTS FROM A BUILDING WHERE EITHER GUN PALM, OR SOME OF THE OTHER CLAIMED VICTIMS OF "PASSIVE SMOKING" WORKED, PROVING THAT THE REAL PROBLEMS ARE WITH AIR QUALITY. THIS, IN ITS TURN, COULD BE USED TO SHOW THE ABSURDITIES IN THE SOON BANCRIPT SWEDISH WORKPLACE INSURANCE SYSTEM.

2. THE SWEDISH CANCER FOUNDATION HAS PUBLISHED AN AD, OFFERING A GRANT OF 1 MILLION SWEDISH CROWNS TO A NEW AND INNOVATIVE ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN.

NORWAY  
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3. NOTHING NEW TO REPORT ON THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S RACE WITH TIME TO SUBMIT A HEARING TO THE PARLIAMENT BEFORE SUMMER LEAVE. - PM MONITORING WITH POLITICIANS INDICATES, THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATES, ONE OF THE PARTIES IN OPPOSITION, WILL SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL OF SMOKING RESTRICTIONS, WHILE THE RULING LABOUR PARTY IS UNDECIDED ABOUT ITS POLICIES. THEY SEEM TO BE DEBATING WHETHER WORKPLACE AND PUBLIC PLACE RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY, OR WHETHER TO WORK TROUGH RECOMMENDATIONS.

FINLAND  
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4. PROFESSOR ARJA RIMPELAE, WHO SUMMER 1986 PUBLISHED A REPORT SUGGESTING SEVERAL NEW RESTRICTIONS AGAINST SMOKING, INCLUDING BANNING NAMES LIKE "MILD", ETC, AND LOWERING MCL'S TO 10 MG TAR, HAS NOW GONE PUBLIC WITH HER RECOMMENDATIONS. IN A LARGE ARTICLE IN A

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LEADING MORNING PAPER SHE ATTACKED THE "MISLEADING INFORMATION" GIVEN BY LOW TAR CIGARETTES. THE ARTICLE IN PRINCIPLE CONTAINED A SHORT VERSION OF HER STUDY, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

PM WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE COUNTER ACTION TUESDAY MAY 19, IN COMBINATION WITH BARCLAY WORKING PARTY IN HELSINKI.

GENERAL  
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5. AN INTERNATIONAL ETS AND IAQ PLANNING MEETING WAS HELD IN LAUSANNE MAY 11TH. - THE NORDIC PLANS WERE FOUND TO BE IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL THINKING, AT THE SAME TIME AS THE MEETING SHOWED GREAT UNDERSTANDING FOR THE NORDIC STRATEGY TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC LINK BETWEEN PARTNERS LIKE ACVA, AND THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

THE FIRST INDOOR AIR QUALITY PILOT STUDIES WILL START IN FINLAND BY MAY 25TH.

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